

[PRICE \$2½ PER MONTH]

14] RUSSELL & Co.,
General Managers.

EXTRACTS.

STORY OF "A GENUINE STRADIVARIUS."

The London correspondent of the *Times* has recently heard of a little street-boy, with a fiddle under his arm, who had been found in a shop not long ago, and begged that the owner of the place would give him a "bit of money or a bit of pudden," he was so "lucky." "I can't afford to feel pauper," he was told; "you get out." However, he was so persistent and begged so hard for "sun," and "shined" his violin as a pledge that he would return next day, that the owner, who might be given, that the man's heart was softened. "Hand me the fiddle," said he, "and here's three pence of grub. Now, when you come and pay me three pence you shall have your property—not before." Well, the fiddle was gratefully despatched, and the lad departed, promising that the first pence he had he would bring back to redeem the instrument. But day went on, and still the small battered violin remained on the counter waiting for its owner. One afternoon a gentleman came into the shop in a great hurry to ask for change for a sovereign, as his Hansom-cab driver had left. While the man was being counted out he took up the fiddle and examined it. "Where did you get this from?" he asked, taking it to the light in order to examine it closely. "If it yours?" "No," answered the man, "telling the story. But do you know, my good fellow," said the gentleman, "I am a judge of these things, and this is most valuable. Where does the boy live?" "Yes, Sir," said the man, "my boy (you may have heard my name), and directly he turns up send him to me, please. This is a genuine Stradivarius, and a beautiful one, too. I'd give a hundred guineas for it myself, and it may be worth more." Thinking the matter over that evening, the shopman made up his mind to get something out of the transaction. As it was the lad came a couple of days afterwards with the three pence and a long story of how father and he had had a fall out with the "bobbies" and had been in "quod." The man asked him point-blank if he would like to sell his fiddle. "No," he was answered; "he had been given it by an old chap when he was a boy, and it was his father's. It was very valuable. It took half an hour at least for the shopman to persuade the lad to part with his instrument for £40, and half an hour longer to arrange that the payment should be made at once in gold over the counter, no cheque taken, as paper money was not understood; and then with a remark that he was sure father would be proud of him, the lad went home. The shopman chuckled. "I've made £39 by that," he said, and then, putting the gentleman's card into his pocket, he prepared to resell at something like a profit. On the way he passed a music-shop, and, determining to find out the real value of the article—for it might be worth a good deal more than one—he went in, and asked the man to take it carefully and tell him what it was worth. "Seven-and-sixpence," German make. We get 'em over by dozens every spring. I sell 'em cheap, promptly. It is useless to say the gentleman did not live at the address given, and it is rumored that he was nearly related to the small-fiddler.

HOW THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTIONISTS ARE TREATED.

George Kennan writes in the *Century*. General Steinhilber has sent to General Steinhilber a large number of persons belonging to the "intriguing" class; they were taken into prison; kept them for ten days or two weeks in the strictest solitary confinement, and then subject them to a terrifying inquisitorial examination with the hope of extracting scraps of information. The effect produced upon a young, inexperienced, and nervous man, by the overwhelming shock of such a transition from the quiet, rustic, and security of a home bedroom, in her own home, to a narrow, gloomy cell in a common criminal prison at night, can readily be imagined. Even if she were a girl of courage and firmness of character, her self-control might give way under the strain of such an ordeal. The woman which broke the stillness of a Russian criminal prison at night—the steady drip of the guard; the faintly heard cries and struggles of a drunken and disorderly "casual" who is being strapped to his bed in another part of the prison, cries which suggest to an inexperienced girl some terrible scene of violence and outrage; the occasional noise of a door being opened, and the hysterical weeping of other recently arrested prisoners in cells on the same corridor, and the sudden and noiseless appearance now and then of an unknown human face at the little square port-hole in the cell door through which the prisoners are watched—all combine to make the first night of a young girl in prison a time of terrible distress and suffering. The woman which broke the stillness of a Russian criminal prison at night—the steady drip of the guard; the faintly heard cries and struggles of a drunken and disorderly "casual" who is being strapped to his bed in another part of the prison, cries which suggest to an inexperienced girl some terrible scene of violence and outrage; the occasional noise of a door being opened, and the hysterical weeping of other recently arrested prisoners in cells on the same corridor, and the sudden and noiseless appearance now and then of an unknown human face at the little square port-hole in the cell door through which the prisoners are watched—all combine to make the first night of a young girl in prison a time of terrible distress and suffering.

INSURANCES.

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SHIPPING IN HONGKONG HARBOUR.

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SHIPPING IN JAPANESE WATERS.

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SHIPPING IN CHINA WATERS.

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SHIPPING IN SOUTHERN PORTS.

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